

Business Programs (Renewable Energy)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM HELPS FINANCE FAMILY-OPERATED WIND FARM

RUSHMORE, Minn. -- Wind energy is a tradition for the Wolf family. So much so that the family decided to own and operate its own wind farm.

USDA Rural Development helped the Wolf's get its five-turbine wind farm started with nearly \$1 million in grants from its Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Improvement program.

Each turbine is owned by a member of the Wolf family along with an equity investor. Ryan Wolf is the project coordinator. Three generations of Wolf's have an ownership stake, including Grandfather Joe, Ryan's parents Mike and Cindy, and sister Gina. The family leases the land for the turbines from a cousin. The project puts out 6.25 megawatts of power.

The project was recognized by Curtis Anderson from Rural Development's national office during Earth Day in 2006 and was a stop on a tour highlighting Rural Development projects for the Women Involved in Farm Economics group in 2007.

"The Wolf's are to be commended for their renewable energy venture," Anderson said. "Projects such as theirs will help provide for a cleaner environment and assist in paving the way to future economic opportunities for rural Minnesota."

Rural Development in Minnesota leads the nation in renewable energy grants since the programs inception in 2003, securing almost \$19 million. Projects range from small and large wind farms to geo-thermal heating, grain dryer upgrades and energy efficiency.



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